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CNRM-FALINIL

The Honourable President of United States of America

Dear President Clinton,

It is my honour to present to you, my warmest compliments.

In an era in which the International Community has renewed its faith in and is making new efforts towards achieving a more just and equitable world in which peace and justice are the backbone of the freedom of individuals, societies and peoples,

In an era in which humankind expects from its world leaders a decisive vision aspiring to a future of progress, based upon the parameters of conservation of our planet and of cooperation and friendship among the peoples of the world;

We recognise fully the importance of the moral authority which the USA commands and must continue to command in the interests of guaranteeing world peace and in defence of the universal standards of freedom and justice. Mr President, under your administration, the United States continues to honour the democratic traditions of a great nation, whose successes in international politics speak for themselves. The process of peace in the Middle East which has ended irreconcilable antagonisms, permitting the Arabs and the Jews to construct a climate of trust and the promise of peace and cooperation, attests to the great and unsurpassable efforts your government has made in response to the American nation's historical obligation to assure the people of the world that the end of the Cold War is truly the beginning of acceptance of democracy and of peace on our planet.

Nevertheless, in this era of rapid technological advances which are rendering the world a smaller and less mysterious place, human life unfortunately continues to be without value in many parts of the world, where peace is threatened by interests which violate universal principles and where ideological elites are usurping political power and persisting in denying their people their most fundamental rights.

We denounce the aberrant philosophical belief of authoritarian regimes, specifically those holding power in Asia, such as Indonesia, China, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, according to which it is argued that the Human Rights, freedom an democracy are relative in natureza and must necessarily accomodate considerations of local culture. Such a philosophy is nothing more than an expression of a feudal mentality of domination and servitude on the one hand, and ideological alienation on the other.

The universality of problems affecting our planet confers upon human beings a global sense of their existence, of their fears, of their sufferings, of their will and of their struggles for survival. The universality of thought which makes man an intelligent actor capable of seeking solutions for all humanity prevails over the spiritual, emotional and psycological postulates characterising man in terms of socio-economic materialism. Such regimes justify making the distinction between those two facts by pointing to the mental unpreparedness of their citizens which in turn is defined as a specific cultural trait of these countries.

Civil and political rights are an inseparable part of the nature of the humankind in its continuing struggle to understand the precise meaning of its existence, its relations with others and role within society.

Any spurt of economic or social progress recorded by nations such as Indonesia is the fruit of the repression of the Indonesian people themselves, and a consequence of the priority which is granted to the physical and material aspects of development, so applauded by western government but for which the people pay such a high price. There can be no justice at the socio-economic level without respect for the civil and political rights of the people and Indonesia is a real and living example of the conceptual arbitrariness typical of regimes built on the strength of repression.

It is a great shame that western nations or, more precisely the countries of the North, continue to allow the regimes of the South, advocating cultural differences to deny universal Human Rights standards in favour of economic development and at the expense of the lives of imprisoned and murdered workers, of the appropriation of farm lands, of the repression of youth and any form of opposition, of the abolition of freedom of the press.

Honourable President,

We are profoundly grateful for the initiatives taken by your administration to remind Indonesia that cases of systematic violations of human rights in East Timor are unacceptable to the USA which in averting a second invasion of Kuwait by Iraq has proved more than adequately to the world that it will not tolerate flagrant violations of International law. Since last year which marked 18 years of Indonesia's military occupation of East Timor, the USA has, under your administration, taken a much firmer stand in its refusal to allow the transfer of F-5 aircraft from Jordan to Indonesia, prohibiting the sale of small, non-letal weapons, halting the military trainings of Indonesian officers under the IMET scheme, acting upon the resolution supported by your government and passed in favour of East Timor at the Geneva Human Rights Commission.

In addiction, we are immensely appreciative of the pronouncements of Secretary of state, Warren Christopher, and of the Assistant Secretary for East Asia, Mr Wiston Lord, both of whom have raised the problem of East Timor with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and other Indonesian officials.

We are profoundly grateful for the attention and concern you displayed in addressing the issue of East Timor with President Suharto at the Group of Seven Summit in July 1993 in Japan, and at the APEC Summit in Seattle in November of the same year. We believe, Mr President, that justice will always be the motor for action and that freedom and democracy will continue to be mainstay of US Foreign Policy, as has been amply demonstrated by your government's support of the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

Honourable President,

East Timor continues to be a territory under the responsability of the International Community. The good offices of the Secretary General of the United Nations have been engaged with a view to reaching a solution to the problem.

In the sequence of peace processes which are occurring as a logical consequence of dialogue, the case of East Timor in turn faces a dialogue process and it is our desire to bring to an end the 19 years of suffering of

the Maubere People. However Jakarta, as ever, is wishing to impose its own law, its own definition of values, upon the world, just as Iraq did and has attempted again in relation to Kuwait. A clear parallell exists in the basic facts between the invasion and military occupation of East Timor by Indonesian forces and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. However, one colossal difference exists: one section of the international community supported Indonesia's policy whilst Baghdad was taught a lesson for violating International Law.

Jakarta has been difficult in its handling of the East Timor question. The economic, military and, therefore, political importance of Indonesia in South-east Asia and the Pacific region has allowed it to become today a member of the UN Security Council, in spite of its failure to honour the resolutions passed in relation to East Timor by this organ of the UN. It is this same importance which has allowed Indonesia to assume the role of host of the forthcoming APEC Summit and which now stands in the way of a successful solution to the East Timor problem being found. Jakarta has shown itself to be intransigent in its attitude to the substance of the problem, whilst Minister Ali Alatas continues to focus his efforts upon drawing attention away from the need for a plebiscite for the people of the territory.

CNRM which I represent has proposed a solution, in the form of a three-phase Peace Plan which will permit a climate of political stability, both within the territory and in relation to Indonesia, ahead of a referendum to be conducted under international supervision.

Allow me to remind you, Mr President, of the existence of another striking parallell between the Gaza and West Bank Autonomy Plan and CNRM's own plan which aims at achieving a just and internationally acceptable solution to the East Timor problem. If with the influence and laudable efforts of your government Israel and Palestine have come to an understanding that it is time to lay down their weapons and to make Peace, bringing to an end a case defined as intractable and characterized by a wide range of complexities, we believe that the USA is capable of contributing decisively to the search for a solution to the East Timor problem, encouraging the Jakarta regime to engage in dialogue with the Resistance.

I come to you now to appeal for your support in raising with President Suharto on the occasion of the APEC Summit the need for Jakarta to display greater political good will in addressing the problem, acknowledging the essence of the problem and the legal and political status of the territory of which the United Nations continues to recognise Portugal as the administering power.

With the highest consideration,

On the behalf of CNRM,

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
Commander of FALINTIL

Cipinang Prison, Jakarta, 1 November 1994